

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on May 12, 2010, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is an independent claim. Claim 1 is amended to clarify its recitations and new claims 5 and 6 are added by this amendment. In particular claim 1 now recites "contacting the contact surface of the protruding feature with a surface of a first substrate, the surface of the first substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer, the contacting resulting in a transfer of all of the ink from the contact surface of the protruding feature to the surface of the first substrate such that none of the ink remains on the contact surface of the protruding feature due to the surface of the first substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer". To stress and as recited in the claims, after the act of contacting the first substrate, none of the ink remains on the contact surface of the protruding feature due to the surface of the first substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer, not due to other acts as argued in the Office Action.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0120902 to Adams ("Adams") in view of Cherniavskaya (Langmuir 2002, 18, 7029-7034, provided as NPL by Applicant, "Cherniavskaya") and U.S. Patent Publication No.

2003/0047535 to Schueller ("Schueller"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 are patentable over Adams in view of Cherniavskaya and Schueller for at least the following reasons.

It is undisputed that Adams does not teach a barrier layer (see, Office Action, page 4, second paragraph). It is also undisputed that Adams and Cherniavskaya do not disclose a first substrate with a surface "having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer resulting in a transfer of all of the ink from the contact surface of the protruding feature to the surface of the first substrate" as recited in claim 1 layer (see, Office Action, page 5, third paragraph).

As stated at page 3, lines 23-26 of the specification, the recitation of claim 1 is based on "the realization that a modified surface layer can also act as a barrier layer preventing the ink molecules from penetrating the stamp material on the timescales of the substrate patterning process, which is a realization that has not been made in the aforementioned prior art documents."

It is respectfully submitted that there is nothing in Schueller that when combined with Adams and Cherniavskaya teaches, discloses or suggests the method recited in claim 1. In Schueller, paragraph [0051] referenced in the Office Action describes drying the surface of the stamp. In the last sentence of the paragraph, Schueller states the following:

A "dried" stamp means that extra ink has been removed from the stamp surface, and the carrier or solvent (if present) has been removed, such that the ink to be used in the printing process remains adsorbed to the stamp material.

There is nothing in Schueller that suggests a surface of a "substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer" as for example recited in claim 1. A higher affinity is not required to remove excess ink. In fact, Schueller cannot use a surface of a "substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer" because such surface, will remove all the ink. Moreover, in direct contradiction of claim 1, Schueller teaches adsorbing the ink in the stamp material. The barrier layer of claim 1 prevents this from occurring.

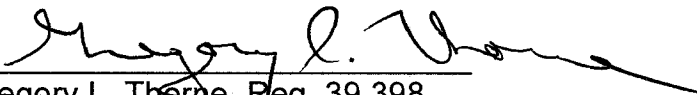
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the method of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Adams, Cherniavskaya and Schueller. For example, Adams in view of Cherniavskaya and Schueller does not teach, disclose or suggest, a method that amongst other patentable elements, comprises (illustrative emphasis added) "contacting the contact surface of the protruding feature with a surface of a first substrate, the surface of the first substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer, the contacting resulting in a transfer of all of the ink from the contact surface of the protruding feature to the surface of the first substrate such that none of the ink remains on the contact surface of the protruding feature due to the surface of the first substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer; and contacting the contact surface of the protruding feature with a surface of a second substrate, the surface of the second substrate having a higher affinity for the ink than the barrier layer, wherein the ink pattern is transferred from the edge of the protruding feature to the surface of the second substrate" as recited in claim 1.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over Adams in view of Cherniavskaya and Schueller and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-4 respectively depend from independent claim 1 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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